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first part, in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

REMARKS

You are requested to reconsider this application in view of the preceding amendments. By the preceding amendments, the description has been amended so as to obviate the objections to the description and to the drawings.

Moreover, claim 13 has been amended along the lines implicit in the examiner's comments in the Office Action noted above, so as to refer to the pipe having a longitudinal axis and so as to call for

... the first and second parts having co-operative formations limiting the movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the response filed November 20, 2001, it is submitted that claim 13, as further amended herein, and its dependent claims are patentable over Kaysing United States Patent No. 2,915,267 and over French Patent No. 1,559,036A. The allowance of those claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

You are requested to amend the second full paragraph on page 4 of the applicant's specification and the following paragraph, which bridges pages 4 and 5 thereof, as follows:

The other part 14 of the clip has a base 26 and sides 28 that turn inwards at their ends 30 to a small extent. The part 14 has its internal corners rounded to correspond to the shape of conventional cross section down pipes. Of course, the part 14 of the clip may be of any desired shape, such as to fit circular section pipes. On their internal surfaces, the base 26 and sides 28 [and] each has [have] a pair of spaced ribs 32. The ends 30 of the sides 28 each also has on its [have on their] internal surface at the end thereof a rib 34. The ribs 32 and 34 simply facilitate the fitting of a clip to a down pipe [downpipe] by reducing areas of contact and hence reducing friction between the clip and the down pipe.

The sides 28 of the second clip part 14 are wider over a major portion of their lengths up to their free ends and the wider portions are slotted from below to form channels 42 on one face 43 of each [thereof from a] base strip 24 [43] extend a series of teeth 44 shaped to interfit between the teeth 22 of the sides of the one part 12. Thus, the second part 14 can be slid down onto the first part 12 with the teeth 22 of the one part 12 engaged with the teeth 44 of the other part 14 at a desired position to give a desired spacing of the second part 14 from the base 16 of the first part 12. The respective base strips 24 [and 43] limit the extent of interengagement of the teeth 22, 44.

You are requested further to amend claim 13, upon which claims 16, 17, 18, and 19 continue to depend, as follows:

13. (Twice Amended) A connecting device suitable for attaching a pipe, which has a longitudinal axis, to a surface, the connecting device comprising a first part fixable to the surface and a second part slidably attachable to the first part so as to be slidable [in a given direction] along the pipe, the first and second

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parts having co-operating formations enabling the attachment of the first part to the second part to be selectively adjustable, whereby spacing of the pipe from the surface is adjustable, the first and second parts having co-operative formations limiting the movement of the second part relative to the first part, in a [the] given direction along the longitudinal axis of the pipe, once the second part has been slidably attached to the first part.

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